(b) if not, whether Government are aware that there is an ever increasing shortage of electrical power in the country and if so, what proposals are under consideration of the Government to meet the future requirements of electricity; and

(c) what are the power generation proposals under the Central schemes for Tamil Nadu?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI): (a) and (b) In order to improve the availability of power, various measures are being taken which include expediting commissioning of new capacity, optimum utilisation of existing capacity, implementation of short gestation project, reduction in transmission and distribution losses, assistance from the neighbouring State/System to the extent possible, implementation of demand management and energy conservation measures.

(c) The VIIth Plan envisages the following Central Schemes in the Southern Region from which Tamil Nadu would get its share:

Ramagundam Super Thermal Station — (2 x 500 MW)

Neyveli Second Mines Cut Thermal Station. — (3 x 210 MW)

Neyveli Second Mines Cut Thermal Station Extension.— (1 x 210 MW)

Kalpakkam Atomic Power Project Unit-II. — (235 MW)

Two units of Neyveli Second Mine Cut and Unit-II of Kalpakkam Atomic Power Project have already been commissioned.

Gas Turbine Power Project in Tamil Nadu

2548. SHRI R. T. GOPALAN: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) what is the present stage of the Gas Turbine Generator project at Basin Bridge Tamil Nadu;

(b) how much funds have been allotted for this projects; and

(c) by when the power station is likely to be commissioned?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI): (a) to (c) The proposal of the Tamil Nadu Electrictiy Board to set up 4x30 MW gas turbine plant at Basin Bridge, at an estimated cost of Rs. 56.48 crores, was techno-economically cleared by the Central Electricity Authority, subject to the confirmation of fuel oil availability. The scheme could be taken up for implementation by the State authorities after the availability of fuel oil, on a sustained basis, has been confirmed and investment approval is accorded.

Availability of drugs at fair prices

2549. SHRI KALPNATH RAI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the reports that the drug manufacturing firms are adopting various unfair practices and managing to fleece the customers by selling their products at rates higher than those fixed by Government; and

(b) if so, whether the matter is being investigated and what steps are being taken to see that drugs are available to customers at fair prices?